



## Edward M. "Mac" Coffman

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### Edward M. "Mac" Coffman

Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin



### "Prelude to War: The American Regular Army in the Twenties and Thirties"

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

12 p.m.

Mershon Center  
Room 120



*This lecture is open to the public. Lunch will be served to invited students and faculty who RSVP to [Beth Russell](#) no later than Monday, April 24, 2006.*

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Edward M. "Mac" Coffman is one of the founders of academic military history in the United States. Born and educated in Hopkinsville, Ky., he earned a B.A. in Journalism and an M.A. and Ph.D. in History at the University of Kentucky. Coffman 1951-53 served in the Army as an infantry lieutenant in the United States, Japan and Korea, but saw no combat. In addition to teaching at Memphis State University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he was a visiting professor at Kansas State University, West Point, the Air Force Academy, the Army Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College.

Coffman served a term on the National Historic Publications and Records Commission and two terms, one as chair, on the Department of the Army Historical Advisory Commission. He has been honored by the Department of the Army with the Distinguished Civilian Service Award, Outstanding Civilian Service Award, and Commander's Award for Public Service. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Society for Military History's Samuel Eliot Morison Prize for lifetime contribution to military history. In 1995, he was selected by the University of Kentucky as a Distinguished Alumnus.

In addition to numerous articles, Coffman has published four books – *The Hilt of the Sword: The Career of Peyton C. March*, *The War To End All Wars: The American Military Experience in World War I* (a History Book Club selection), *The Old Army: A Portrait of the American Army in Peacetime, 1784-1898*, and *The Regulars: The American Army, 1898-1941* (a History Book Club selection and the Society for Military History's Distinguished Book of the Year).

After retiring from the University of Wisconsin in 1992, Coffman and his wife moved back to Lexington, Ky. They have three children and five grandchildren.